R. Eric Petersen is a Specialist in American National Government in the Government and Finance division of the Congressional Research Service, where he has worked for two decades. He conducts research and provides policy analysis support and training for Members of Congress and their staff. His research areas include the Smithsonian Institution, congressional administration and staffing; constituent service management; the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and government information management; congressional-executive relations; government contingency planning; and.

Dr. Petersen earned undergraduate degrees at the Community College of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. His graduate work includes a master in public administration from Virginia Tech, and an MA and Ph.D. in political science from Syracuse University. In addition to his work at CRS, he is a lecturer in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs of The Ohio State University.